

SPiRiT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph

THE POLITICAL SITUATION AS REFLECTED BY THE ELECTIONS.

From the N. Y. Herald.

The news at first of the October elections in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Indiana seemed more favorable to the Republicans than the latest and more complete returns of the vote show. It now appears that the Democrats have gained in all these States, not very largely, it is true, in the total popular vote over the previous corresponding election, but still their gain is positive and important.

From this local and partial success the Democrats begin to make up their figures for a majority in the House of Representatives and the election of a Speaker. This, to use a familiar simile, is counting their chickens before they are hatched. A great deal has to be done to overcome the overwhelming Republican majority in the present House.

While it must be admitted that a turn in the tide of political sentiment in several large States, such as we see in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana, though not very great, indicates the general trend, still we should remember that politics in this country oscillates like the pendulum, and a few months may bring another change.

The popular instincts are seldom wrong—at least they are generally right in this enlightened and self-governing country. There must be a cause, then, for the change of public sentiment in the States where the elections have just taken place. What is that cause? Undoubtedly the corruption and incapacity of the present Republican Congress and leaders.

examples of weakness and want of elevated patriotism and statesmanship are too numerous to cite in this article. They are known, however, to the public, and are not likely to be forgotten.

True, the Democrats have no policy—nothing but a negative platform to stand upon. The faults and shortcomings of the Republicans constitute the political capital they work upon. We look in vain for statesmen in this party, or for a bold, positive, and comprehensive policy, either domestic or foreign.

QUANTULA SAPIENTIA.

From the N. Y. World.

If the venerable Swede could come to life and revisit the glimpses of our moon, he would have new confidence in the aphorism with which he sent his son a grandson to measure the extent of imbecility in this world's doings.

A SWEET STATE OF THINGS.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

We find ourselves again and again irresistibly impelled to a contemplation of the social charms which attend the exercise of the right of suffrage in the City of Brotherly Love.

"He said Mr. Seward with two or three young men had been there through the day, on a matter which Mr. Seward had much at heart; that he had yielded to the project of Mr. Seward, but as it involved considerable detail and he had his hands full, and more too, he had left Mr. Seward to prepare the necessary papers.

For the next few days all was in confusion. "The President continued to hesitate." He could not rid himself of the influence of Seward and the little military and naval camarilla which he had evoked. "There was," says Mr. Welles, "at that time a clique of naval officers, as there has been on more than one occasion, anxious to take possession and control the Navy Department."

tion in New York for years! Are we to go on forever in this way, the victims of our own imbecility? Are we to see the whole electoral system absolutely swamped by a surging sea of blood? Are we fools, idiots, traitors, asses enough always to be cheated and always to pretend (for the sake of appearances) that we have not been? That is the question. In what way it may be best answered, time and circumstances must decide!

The new expedition was got ready and was about to sail, when, says poor Mr. Welles—"I congratulated myself on the energy and activity with which this work had been accomplished, and was prepared to await results. Mr. Seward and his staff, however, called at my rooms at 11 o'clock on the 6th of April, with a telegram from Meigs and Porter at New York, the purport of which was that there was difficulty in completing arrangements in consequence of conflicting orders from the Secretary of the Treasury. I was explained that there was no movement with which my orders conflicted."

In naval phrase, "all hands were called to meet topsail." They rushed to the President, but he was, or pretended to be, more perplexed than they. "He looked first at one and then at the other; read and re-read the telegram, and asked if I was not in error as to the flag-ship. He said he had become convinced with the names of Pocahontas and Powhatan."

It may suit Mr. Welles' theory of Mr. Lincoln's integrity to believe, if he can, in this simplicity; but to our mind it is abundantly clear that the President was playing a game with consummate art, for at the time he thus appeared confused he knew he had issued the orders which frustrated the whole, and had, at the instance of Seward, actually appointed David D. Porter to command and Montgomery C. Meigs to engineer the absurd and useless expedition to the Gulf.

The whole matter is simply scandalous, doubly so implicating Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward. To the latter it is creditable in one respect only. It tends to show that he meant to keep faith with Judge Campbell, and through him with the South Carolina authorities; and there is nothing in the antecedents of the officers, young as they were, whom he used as his instruments to conflict with this theory.

"Any other man, finding himself bound by a promise given under a misapprehension to the enemies of his country, might have thought it his duty to resign office, rather than to persist in the attempt to thwart the first important act of the Government which belonged to him under the name of his own preservation. But Mr. Seward doubtless thought, as a public statesman, that his own services were more important to the nation than the Sumter expedition; and feeling that his personal honor required that the country should lose one or the other of them, he chose to render the relief of the fort impossible, rather than deprive the nation of his future labors. History will decide whether he chose wisely for the country and for his own fame."

Not a word of the meeting of the Board of Return Judges in Philadelphia last Thursday (in the Morning Post newspaper), is a marvel and a mystery of clamor and confusion, of shouting and shooting, of turmoil and tussle. It being settled that a lawyer should be heard on either side in regard to the validity of a certain return, William B. Mann, Esq., and Lewis C. Cassidy, Esq., were summoned. When Mr. Mann appeared, there was a "Democratic" mob about the door, and he was in exactly the opposite condition of which Sterne's stalling complained—"he couldn't get in!"

That in outrages like these there may be some blame upon both sides, knowing, as we do, the infirmity of human nature, we are not disposed to deny. But whoever would know to whom the chief part of the trouble must be fairly assigned must watch the comments of the "Democratic" newspapers. They are not aggrieved by the riots, but by the attempts to suppress them made by the authorities; yet the only quarrel which honest patriots can have with these attempts will be with their comparative tardiness and inefficiency.

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